

**SECRET****PRIORITY**

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S E C R E T 291949Z CITE [REDACTED]

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OXCART

SUBJ: EVALUATION OF BLACK SHIELD MISSION BX6722

1. CAMERA TYPE I (115A), UNIT F WAS USED ON MISSION BX6722. PROCESSING WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN THE FIELD. THE MISSION CONTAINS 1,004 TITLED FRAMES.

2. BOTH CAMERAS OPERATED SATISFACTORILY THROUGHOUT THE MISSION. DURING STRAIGHT AND LEVEL FLIGHT, ESTIMATED GROUND RESOLUTIONS

[REDACTED] WAS OBTAINED ON IMAGERY NEAR THE VERTICAL PORTION OF THE AFT CAMERA FRAMES; THE FORWARD CAMERA FRAMES HAVE LESS RESOLUTION BECAUSE OF AN EXPOSURE PROBLEM. FOR ANALYTICAL PURPOSES, STRAIGHT AND LEVEL FLIGHT OCCURS WHEN THE CAMERA IS UNCAGED AND THE VEHICLE IS WITHIN THE CAMERA STABILIZATION LIMITS IN ROLL AND PITCH. THIS COMPRISES 48 PERCENT OF THE MISSION. IN AREAS OF COORDINATED TURNS AND VEHICLE MANEUVERING THE IMAGE QUALITY REMAINS GOOD WITH MINIMAL SMEAR DUE TO VEHICLE MOTION. HOWEVER, IN A TURN, APPROXIMATELY 30 DEGREES OF SCAN OF ONE CAMERA IS GENERALLY UNUSABLE DUE TO IMAGING THE HORIZON. THE RESOLUTION AT OBLIQUITY ANGLES OF 30 TO 50 DEGREES IS ESTIMATED [REDACTED]

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3. FAILURE OF THE EXPOSURE PROGRAMMER TAPE RESULTED IN THE ENTIRE MISSION BEING EXPOSED AT 1/240 SECOND RATHER THAN THE 1/170 AND 1/190 SECOND AS PLANNED. ALSO THE FORWARD CAMERA FRAMES APPEAR TO HAVE RECEIVED LESS EXPOSURE THAN THE AFT CAMERA FRAMES. THE ENTIRE MISSION RECEIVED MAXIMUM OR FORCED PROCESSING LEVELS TO CORRECT FOR THE UNDEREXPOSURE, RESULTING IN A HIGH BASE PLUS FOG LEVEL THROUGHOUT THE MISSION.

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4. A SEVERE EMULSION SCRATCH LOCATED NEAR THE FILM EDGE AWAY FROM THE DATA CHAMBER IS PRESENT FROM FRAME 624 TO 636. THE SEVERITY OF THE SCRATCH IS SUCH THAT IN SOME INSTANCES IT APPEARS TO BE A CUT IN THE FILM. A SIMILAR TYPE OF SCRATCH IS PRESENT BETWEEN FRAMES 658 AND 674; HOWEVER, THE DEGREE OF SEVERITY IS SOMEWHAT LESS. POSITIVE REPRODUCTIONS DO NOT REVEAL THE PRESENCE OF THE ANOMALY. PINHOLES AND MINOR HANDLING MARKS ARE PRESENT INTERMITTENTLY THROUGHOUT.

5. OVERLAPPING OF FRAMES RESULTING IN THE DATA CHAMBERS EXPOSURES APPEARING IN THE FORMAT AREA OCCURS BETWEEN FRAMES 473 AND 494. THE DATA CHAMBER IMAGES ARE ALSO ROTATED FIVE DEGREES TO THE LEFT OF PERPENDICULAR THROUGHOUT THE MISSION. THIS ALSO RESULTS IN SOME DATA CHAMBERS BEING EXPOSED IN THE FORMAT AREA.

6. BOTH PROGRAMMED V/H AND SENSED V/H WERE USED ON THIS MISSION. THE IMAGE QUALITY UNDER BOTH CONDITIONS IS SATISFACTORY.

7. THE CORRELATION OF THE INS TAPE, FILM DATA BLOCK, AND IMAGERY WAS ACCOMPLISHED USING ELAPSED TIME AND IS SATISFACTORY. THE INS TAPE IS FOUR SECONDS LESS THAN THE FILM CLOCK THROUGHOUT THE MISSION. AT FRAME 509 (ELAPSED TIME 11208), THE FILM CASING LIGHT WAS ON WHEN THE INS TAPE INDICATED AN UNCAGED STATUS. THE FILM AND INS AGREE ON THE REMAINDER OF THE MISSION.

8. CLOUDS OBSCURE APPROXIMATELY 75 PERCENT OF THE PHOTOGRAPHY AND IN CLOUD FREE AREAS FAIR QUALITY PHOTOGRAPHY IS AVAILABLE.

9. THE ZERO PRIORITY REPRODUCTIONS AND REGULAR REPRODUCTIONS APPEAR TO BE OF EQUAL QUALITY.

S E C R E T

END OF MESSAGE

**SECRET**

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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